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From left to right, Josh Cech, Michael Smith, Lea Shores, Jillian Parker and Lacey Ridder were selected to play in the junior high honor band in Hays on Saturday, Nov. 3. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Students perform at Hays High



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By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News From the spirited beat of jazz, to the "King of Rock 'n Roll," to the religious flavor of "Kyrie Eleison," the high school jazz honor band and junior high honor band played and junior high honor choir sang a variety of music at Hays High School this month.

Students were selected from several northwest Kansas schools to play in the bands and sing in the choir on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Five Grant Junior High students were selected to play in the Northwest Kansas District Junior High Honor Band and one Goodland High School student was selected to play in the High School Honor Jazz Band.

Four seventh graders were chosen for the band: Josh Cech, trombone; Michael Smith, baritone; Lea Shores, clarinet; and Jillian Parker, clarinet. The one eighth grader chosen was Lacey Ridder, clarinet, who was not able to go due to illness.

Senior Scot Johnson, trombone, said he played in the jazz band for the third year, but might have gone four years if he had applied his freshman year.

Scot's parents are Jean and James Johnson. Jean is a teacher's aide at the high school and James works at Truck and Tractor Repair.

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Each group performed five songs, Jean said, and the concert lasted about an hour. Jean has attended the performance for the last three years, she said, with Scot performing and this year saw her daughter Sandy perform in the Junior High Honor Choir as well.

The performance has always been really good, she said, and it is a good experience for the kids to be able to do something like this. They always have really good instructors down there, she said.

The students sent taped auditions to the Northwest Kansas District Honor Band Chairman in Norton, Paul Garrison, former band teacher, said, and the chairman selected students from all the auditions he received.

The junior high students were selected from among auditions from 32 schools in Kansas, Garrison said.

Those selected for the band met in the morning at Hays High School, band teacher Deandra Wirth said, and practiced until 10:30 a.m. They met in the afternoon for a dress rehearsal, she said, and performed a concert at 3:30 p.m.

About 100 musicians were chosen for the junior high band, she said, and practiced the music for the concert on their own. But they only had one morning to practice together.



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Senior Scot Johnson was selected to the jazz honor band for the third year.



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